Making a Contribution: Part of the Wilkes Tradition

Every fall, Wilkes welcomes a new freshman class, bringing with them great promise. Preparing leaders who contribute to society is at the heart of the mentoring culture here at Wilkes. We expect Wilkes graduates to make their mark in the world through leadership, professional accomplishment, personal achievement and community service.

The feature stories on these pages remind us that our students and alumni make important contributions in many fields. The story about student research in the biology department clearly reflects that Wilkes is a leader among undergraduate institutions in preparing future scientists who will engage in ground-breaking research. The $1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which recognizes Wilkes science programs for their exceptional preparation of future scientists and doctors, further underscores the national excellence of our research culture.

Our cover story about alumnus Steve Bailey ’79, curator of fishes at Boston’s New England Aquarium, is the story of an individual who moved from the classrooms and laboratories at Wilkes to making a significant lifetime contribution in the field of marine sciences. Many of our alumni have similar success stories in every field of endeavor.

On the pages chronicling this year’s Homecoming celebration, you’ll find the picture of another individual whose contributions touched generations of Wilkes students. Al Groh ’41 was honored at the annual Ancestral and Golden Colonels breakfast with a tribute plaque, presented for long-term distinguished contributions to the University leading to state and national recognition. Al is an extraordinary example of the mentoring tradition that sets Wilkes apart as an institution.

As this magazine went to press, our annual speakers’ series—the Outstanding Leaders Forum—was scheduled for Nov. 17 and sold out. This year’s speaker, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, shows us that there are many arenas outside the corporate world where individuals make monumental contributions. Professor Wiesel’s appearance reminds us that advancing humanitarian causes is as important to society as growing a business or a scientific discovery. Please go to the Wilkes Web site to learn more about his appearance here.

In this issue we also acknowledge our alumni and friends who provide financial support to the University. They make a huge contribution to their alma mater. The Report of Gifts lists the individuals who help to ensure Wilkes can continue its mission of preparing the next generation of leaders who contribute to society. In these challenging times, we are especially appreciative of this support.

Dr. Tim Gilmour
Wilkes University President
contents

FEATURES

8 Protecting Paradise
Steve Bailey ’79 finds career success below sea level

12 Lab Partners
Undergraduate biology research boosted by Howard Hughes grant

14 Around the World in Seven Months
Alumni couple circles the globe for trip of a lifetime

DEPARTMENTS

2 On Campus

4 Athletics

16 Alumni News

19 Class Notes

23 Report of Gifts

Steve Bailey ’79, curator of fishes for the New England Aquarium, has researched the undersea world as far away as Fiji. PHOTO BY NATHAN FRIED-LIPSKI

Have a story idea to share?
Contact us at wilkesmagazine@wilkes.edu or Wilkes Magazine, 84 W. South St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766.